• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Vol. X June 30, 1943 No. 6

Garden Judged Best In L. A. County Is Grown on Colorado River Aqueduct Water

Colorado River Aqueduct water!

It is softened and ideally adapted for all household uses.

It is filtered crystal clear and is a good and healthy drinking water.

It is abundantly available and dependable for the service and protection of war industries located in District cities.

And that's not all.

Colorado River Aqueduct water has been recognized as the champion Victory Garden water of all Los Angeles county. This latest recognition of the high qualities of aqueduct water came as a result of the Victory Garden contest conducted throughout Los Angeles county by the Los Angeles Examiner.

As announced in the June 27 issue of the Examiner, the first prize winner was Melvin E. Layton of Santa Monica, the one District city supplied exclusively with softened and filtered Colorado River Aqueduct water. Mr. Layton's Victory Garden, located at 1800 17th Street in Santa Monica, was irrigated with aqueduct water.

In announcing the winners of its Victory Garden contest, the Examiner stated that Mr. Layton's garden was graded as the best of all that entered the giant contest which began last February. It was the second garden he had ever grown, his only previous experience having occurred when he was a high school student.

In describing Mr. Layton's garden, the Examiner stated:

"The prize winning garden, 40 feet by 60 feet, was practically a miniature county fair exhibit consisting of almost

(*Continued on Page* 3)

Orange County Line Extension Progressing

Work on all three phases of the job of extending the Orange County feeder from Santa Ana to the south coast to serve the Coastal Municipal Water District was under way in June.

The task of removing approximately eleven miles of 36-inch steel pipe from the old delivery line that formerly carried water from the Morris Reservoir to Pasadena was 97 per cent completed on June 30.

After being excavated in sections and removed from its foothill location, the pipe is transported to the South Gate plant of the American Pipe and Construction Co., where it is thoroughly reconditioned. This work was well under way in June, with approximately 600 feet of pipe a day being processed.

On June 16 the first of the recondi-

(*Continued on Page* 3)

How steel pipe for the extension of an aqueduct distribution line is obtained in war time. Eleven miles of 36-inch steel pipe formerly used to deliver water from Morris Reservoir to Pasadena was purchased by the District to serve, after being reconditioned, as the major portion of the Orange County feeder now being extended from Santa Ana to the Coastal Municipal Water District. (At left) A trenching machine is uncovering a section of the pipe line. (Center) The end of a pipe section has been engaged preparatory to being lifted from the trench. (At right) A 90-foot section of pipe is lifted out of the trench.

· COLORADO RIVER ·
AQUEDUCT NEWS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
306 West Third St.
Los Angeles, California

Published monthly in the interest of Field and Office Workers on the Colorado River Aqueduct, and for the information of all other citizens of the Metropolitan Water District.

VOL. X JUNE 30, 1943 No. 6

Statement By Chairman Whitsett

We have come down a long trail in our crusade to bring about the orderly economic and vitally essential development of the vast resources of the Lower Colorado River.

It is somewhat more than twenty years ago that a relatively small group of clear-visioned men and women in Southern California set about what then appeared to be the impossible task of awakening not only our national legislators but our own people to a realization of the imperative need of bringing to this coastal plain a share of the vast hydroelectric power and water resources of the Colorado River.

In 1930 our country was plunging headlong into a black era of depression and economic stagnation. In the midst of these heartbreaking times, our people in the Metropolitan Water District possessed the courage and the faith to press forward with their great program of financing and building the greatest domestic water supply system in America.

Today one vital fact stands forth for all America to see. It is the realization that the Colorado River Aqueduct is one of the most perfectly timed projects ever planned or wrought by the hand of Man.

It provided a payroll of tens of millions of dollars, and jobs for more than 38,000 men during years of unemployment. It kept the wheels of industry moving in scores of cities throughout the United States, manufacturing and handling vast quantities of materials and supplies used on the job.

Finally, and most important of all, it brought to the cities of the Metropolitan Water District an abundant and dependable supply of water to support the tremendous structure of our war industries and our military establishments that have come into existence since our country went to war.

District Cities In Preferred Position While Many Sections Face Water Problems

Many sections of the United States are facing a serious and growing problem in the maintenance of adequate and dependable water supplies to meet the needs of enormous war production centers and military establishments.

In the June 16 issue of The Wall Street Journal there is set forth, in an article by V. C. Jones, the findings of a water supply survey recently conducted by the War Production Board. It reveals that a number of cities and areas in the North and South Atlantic states, in the Middle West and in the Far West are confronted with present or prospective water shortages.

The cities of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California are located in a semiarid region and one that also ranks near the top as a war production area in this country. It is therefore especially significant that none of these District cities is listed among the production areas facing serious water problems.

The following is an excerpt from The Wall Street Journal article:

WASHINGTON—Well water is moving out of the free-as-air classification into the realm of scarce materials.

The War Production Board soon will step in to tell corporations and municipalities where they may dig the wells to supply water for industrial and human needs.

A limitation order now in preparation will decree that no well may be dug until W.P.B's Office of War Utilities has had opportunity to study what the effect will be on other wells and has passed on its exact location.

The order is part of a major program now under way to conserve the nation's water supply, currently drawn on by war production at an estimated 30 per cent above normal.

Danger of a water shortage is at present strictly potential. Rainfall during the last three years has been from 4 per cent to 12 per cent above normal. In most areas reservoirs are spilling. Stream flows have been high generally, and there has been some flooding. Perennial underground supplies in sand and gravel deposits are well filled.

But W.P.B. warns that the outlook may change suddenly with drastic effect. A prolonged drought, it says, would slow down the war effort more quickly than anything else. There are substitutes for power and fuel, but none for water.

Importance of water as a prime war resource has grown in proportion to war production. Here are some of the reasons:

It takes 75 to 80 tons of water to manufacture a ton of ingot steel; 175 tons before the steel is fabricated.

A gallon of gasoline requires from seven to ten gallons of water.

One of the largest alcohol-producing plants uses 236 gallons of water for each gallon of alcohol produced.

Before an airplane engine is approved for installation from 125,000 to 150,000 gallons have been used in testing.

At the new synthetic rubber plant at Institute, W. Va., 120,000 gallons of water are used each minute.

Since Pearl Harbor, reports W.P.B., demands for water in this country have exceeded all predictions and have placed a phenomenal strain on many of the 13,500 water utilities. These water works serve 85 million persons. About 9,000 of them are municipally owned, the remainder owned privately. More than 500 of them bear a major proportion of the war burden.

Well water deficiencies are spread over the war production areas of the country. The regions most seriously affected are the South Atlantic, East North Central and Pacific Coast. Deficiencies in distribution are reported especially bad in the Pacific Coast, South Atlantic, New England, West South Central and East North Central areas.

A recent compilation of deficiencies —in supply, pumping, treatment, and distribution and storage facilities revealed a serious status in one or more of the categories in 272 cities and potential deficiencies in 119 others.

At Newport News, Va., embarkation point which received the hardest impact of the war, a new supply had to be obtained from a river several miles away.

San Diego, Calif., next worst hit, is potentially in danger. It has a three-and-a-half-year storage, which at no time can be allowed to drop below a two-year supply (it would take that long to build additional facilities). Because of its military activity and population, this city will increase in importance as the war against Japan is intensified.

• MONTHLY REPORT •

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager Julian Hinds, filed with the Board of Directors in June, 1943, covering work done in May.

Construction

Parker Power Plant—Unit No. 4 was completed by the Bureau of Reclamation and placed in operation, paralleled to the District system, on May 26.

Ground Wires on 230 kv Transmission Line—Installation of the grounding system on the 230 kv transmission line was completed on May 18. All equipment and surplus materials were moved to base points and clean-up was completed May 22.

Coastal Municipal Water District Line—The American Pipe and Construction Company, up to the end of May, has removed 47,621 feet of pipe from tunnel and trench between Morris Dam and Monrovia. After extensive experimentation, reconditioning of the pipe at the South Gate yard was on a production basis during the second half of the month. Resurfacing of roads along the line of pipe removal was started May 16 by W. E. Hall Company, subcontractor.

Operation and Maintenance

General—Delivery of power to Basic Magnesium, Inc. reached a daily maximum of 3,634,875 kwhr on May 26. The maximum peak load was 153,000 kw on May 25. Total energy delivered to B.M.I. in May was 110,000,218 kwhr.

Design—Details for needed improvements in operating equipment were studied and various revisions made in drawings of operation structures for the Coastal Municipal Water District pipe line. Drawings were reviewed for a connection to the Santa Monica feeder in Burbank. Studies were continued of W.P.B. and O.P.A. regulations as they may affect District operation and construction.

Parker Dam—The water level in Lake Havasu was maintained close to elevation 449.5 feet, virtually a full reservoir, during the entire month. The average discharge of the Colorado at this point in May was 15,615 c.f.s. compared to 14,308 c.f.s. in April.

Main Aqueduct—The main aqueduct was patrolled, canals were cleaned of sand and debris, and other maintenance work was performed as necessary.

Pumping Plants — System pumping was resumed May 21 and continued to the end of the month. Maintenance work was performed on the pumping plants, camps, and transmission and telephone systems. Overhaul of all camp cooling systems was completed.

Distribution System—Water surface at Lake Mathews on May 31 was at elevation 1342.73 feet representing useful storage of 76,966 acre feet, an increase of 775 acre feet during the month. At the Softening and Filtration Plant regular water softening operations continued, including laboratory analyses of chemical, bacteriological, and plankton samples. Water was softened from 378 to 100 p.p.m. of hardness. The average flow for the month was 32.25 c.f.s. or 21,000,000 gallons per day. Routine patrol and maintenance of the distributing pipe lines and reservoirs was performed. The Orange County reservoir was drained, thoroughly cleaned, and the bottom and sides treated with copper sulphate.

Hydrographic—Regular and special meetings were attended of the Colorado River Board of California at Los Angeles, and of the Basin Committee of 14 at Phoenix, Arizona and Denver, Colorado. Usable storage in Lake Mead increased 1,121,000 acre feet, to 23,093,000 acre feet, with a consequent rise in water level of 8.17 feet, to elevation 1188.77 feet. Discharge of the Colorado River at Boulder averaged 16,550 c.f.s. in May.

Employment—In May, 27 classified positions were filled, 19 by transfer and 8 by new employment. There were also recorded 53 terminations, 21 changes of status, 1 military leave, 40 employment contracts and 54 interviews.

Right of Way—Negotiations concluded during the month resulted in deeds to 4 parcels, a judgment on 2 parcels and a rental agreement on 1 parcel, all for the distribution system.

Purchasing — There were issued in May 214 purchase orders amounting to $8,300.00. Carload forwardings consisted of 1 car of ground wire cable for the transmission line, 2 cars of cement and 3 cars of enamel for the South Coast pipe line, and 52 cars of salt and 1 car of sodium silicate for the softening plant. Cash salvage sales for the month amounted to $9,167.96. The appraised value of salvage stock on hand at the end of the month was $295,088.10.

Grows Best Garden

(*Continued from Page* 1)

every seasonable vegetable. Here are the contents: Corn, cabbage, cauliflower, tomatoes, lettuce, squash, pumpkins, potatoes, eggplant, chard, turnips, cucumbers, radishes, onions, parsnips, pole beans and bunch beans."

And here is Mr. Layton's advice to home garden growers (you'll notice it concerns the subject of water):

"Always irrigate—never sprinkle."

He might have added, with justification: "And use Colorado River Aqueduct water."

A veteran of World War I, Mr. Layton is a carpenter and operates a bungalow court in Santa Monica. He resides with his daughter whose husband is in the Army. For his first prize garden he was awarded a $1,000 War Bond by the Examiner.

Not far behind the top ranking garden was that entered by Emile E. Oddoul, 2833 East Third Street, Long Beach, another District city.

Third prize winner was O. E. Campbell of Los Angeles.

Among the other prize winning gardens were several grown in Santa Monica and Long Beach.

The outstanding Southern California agricultural experts who served as judges in the Victory Garden contest are: Murray C. McNeil, chairman of the Los Angeles Victory Garden Committee, Civilian Defense Council, and past president of the Southern California Horticultural Institute; Edwin B. Angier, supervisor of the agricultural department of the City School System; and W. A. Reynolds, assistant coordinator, Victory Gardens and Home Food Production of Los Angeles County.

Orange County Line

(*Continued from Page* 1)

tioned pipe was placed on the new line extending south from Santa Ana. The job of reconditioning the pipe and placing it as the major portion of the extended feeder line is scheduled to continue until the project is completed within the next few months.

Extending about 12 miles from Santa Ana to a point near Corona Del Mar, the line will also include about one mile of precast concrete pipe. On the lower end of the line there is also to be constructed a regulating reservoir with a capacity of approximately 5,000,000 gallons.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Major Eugene H. Riggs, Post Utility Officer, Air Service Command, San Bernardino Army Air Field in California. From June 30, 1930, to December, 1933, Major Riggs was the District's Purchasing Agent. For a number of years thereafter he performed responsible duties as an Assistant Engineer in the Electrical Division. Also at the San Bernardino Air Field, as a Chief Draftsman, is James H. Rowe, formerly a District Draftsman.

Word has come from Martin N. (Whitey) Kimbell, now in the Army and serving as Progress Engineer under Major Riggs at the San Bernardino Army Air Field. From May, 1936 to October, 1939 Whitey was one of the champion hard rock miners who blasted through the 13-mile San Jacinto tunnel.

The showing of the natural color aqueduct film THEY SAW TOMORROW at Patriotic Hall on the evening of June 10 for M.W.D. office employees and their families and friends was also attended by a number of aqueduct Alumni. Among the former aqueducters in attendance were DeWitt L. Reaburn, now with the U. S. Engineers; James Marvin, now with Calship; Verne Elliott, now with Consolidated Steel Corp.; C. A. Bissell, now with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation in the Denver office; Hugh B. McAfee, now with the U. S. Employment Office in Los Angeles; Doris Cecil Ross, now with the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Los Angeles; Elisabeth von Hagen Kinsey, now with Bechtel - McCone - Parsons; Thelma Jones Odell, now at home in Los Angeles with her baby daughter; Olga Moehlman, now with the State Employment Bureau in San Diego, and Edward Stewart.

Captain Hugh Jones, Engineer Corps, U. S. A., is Area Engineer in charge of construction at the Wendover Air Base near Salt Lake City, Utah. Captain Jones is a veteran aqueducter. He started with the District in 1929 as an Instrumentman on the preliminary aqueduct surveys. When he resigned in 1942 he was an Assistant Engineer in the Distribution Division, working under the direction of R. B. Diemer.

Formerly the Editor of the Aqueduct News, Lt. Col. Lynn Davis Smith, is seen here as he was about to enter and take over a Jap village on Attu Island. He reports that the Nip characters on the signpost freely translated mean: "Welcome to Our City." He and his men took the Slanties at their word and made themselves at home. Lt. Col. Smith returned to California early in June and assumed new duties as Deputy Chief of Staff and Operations Officer of a special amphibious training force temporarily working out at a West Coast Army camp.